

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PBOR, PEPR, EG, IS, US, SA, GO

SUBJECT: SAUDI AND JORDANIAN REACTION RE LONDON TALKS

REF: CAIRO 16319

1. BEARING IN MIND YOUR UNDERTAKING TO ADVISE GOE OF RE-
ACTIONS TO OUR SUPPORTIVE DEMARCHES TO SAUDIS AND JOR-
DANIANS (REFTEL), YOU MAY, IF YOU FEEL IT DESIRABLE,ADVISE
VP MUBARAK, IN KAMEL'S ABSENCE, OF RESULTS AMBASSADOR
WEST'S TALKS IN RIYADH AND AMBASSADOR PICKERING'S AND
LONDON DCM'S (STREATOR) DEMARCHES IN AMMAN AND LONDON.
ALTERNATIVELY, IF YOU THINK PREFERABLE, WE CAN DO THIS
DIRECTLY WITH KAMEL IN LONDON.

2. IN DRAWING ON DHAHRAN 0858, JIDDA 4977, AMMAN 05748
AND 05785, AND LONDON 10613 (ALL OF WHICH HAVE BEEN SENT
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TO OR REPEATED TO CAIRO), SUGGEST YOU MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS

A. SAUDI ARABIA:

--IN VIEW OF PRINCE FAHD'S ABSENCE IN EUROPE, AMBASSADOR
WEST SAW PRINCES SAUD AND TURKI ON JULY 3 AND SAUD FOR A
SECOND TIME ON JULY 4. SAUD INITIALLY REACTED SOMEWHAT

SHARPLY TO OUR URGING SUPPORT FOR SADAT, SAYING SAG IS

MAINTAINING--EVEN INCREASING--ITS MATERIAL ASSISTANCE FOR EGYPT AND HAD RECEIVED NO INDICATION EGYPT WANTED MORE. ON THIS OCCASION, SAUD REACTED NEGATIVELY TO THE RESUMPTION OF DIRECT EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI TALKS.

-- SAUD ALSO REPEATEDLY URGED THAT THE U.S. ACT DECISIVELY BY TAKING A PUBLIC POSITION ON THE KEY PEACE SETTLEMENT ISSUES IN VIEW OF ISRAEL'S NEGATIVE REPLIES TO OUR QUESTIONS.

-- IN CONTRAST, AT THE JULY 4 SESSION WITH AMBASSADOR WEST SAUD WAS MUCH MORE FAVORABLY INCLINED TOWARD LONDON TALKS. WHILE HE STILL EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT ANY REAL PROGRESS COULD BE MADE, HE RECOGNIZED THAT THE LONDON MEETINGS MIGHT WELL SERVE TO BRING INTO SHARPER FOCUS THE AREAS OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE PARTIES.

B. JORDAN

-- ON JULY 5, AMBASSADOR PICKERING IN AMMAN SAW CROWN PRINCE HASSAN WHO WAS PERSONALLY RECEPTIVE TO HIS DEMARCHE AND WHO, PROVIDING KING HUSSEIN AGREED, WAS INCLINED TO CONSIDER HAVING THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION ISSUE A STATEMENT SUPPORTING EGYPT'S PEACE PLAN; SUCH A STATEMENT
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WOULD IMPUTE HKJ SUPPORT FOR THE LONDON TALKS AS WELL, HASSAN SAID.

-- THE FOLLOWING DAY IN LONDON, OUR DCM PERSONALLY PASSED TO KING HUSSEIN A COPY OF EGYPT'S PLAN AND OUR POINTS SUPPORTIVE OF GOE PARTICIPATION IN THE LONDON TALKS.

-- WHILE KING HUSSEIN DID NOT COMMENT ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE PLAN OR THE POINTS MADE BY OUR DCM, WE NOTE WITH SATISFACTION THAT JORDAN'S INFORMATION MINISTER ABU ODEH, ON JULY 8, ISSUED A STATEMENT IN WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED EGYPT'S PLAN AS "BALANCED" AND "FLEXIBLE".

C. IN SUM, WE CONCLUDE THAT:

-- WHILE THE SAUDIS--OR AT LEAST PRINCE SAUD HIMSELF--ARE ONLY RELUCTANTLY SUPPORTIVE OF EGYPT'S PARTICIPATION IN THE LONDON MEETINGS, THEY ARE PREPARED TO KEEP THEIR COUNSEL.

-- THE JORDANIANS ARE PREPARED TO GO ALONG AND THEY HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT GESTURE OF SUPPORT WITH THEIR JULY 8

STATEMENT.

-- MORE IMPORTANTLY, WE BELIEVE THAT WHILE NEITHER THE SAUDIS NOR THE JORDANIANS MAY OFFER PUBLICLY THE CLEAR SUPPORT FOR THE LONDON TALKS WHICH EGYPT DESERVES, BOTH WILL BE CAREFUL NOT TO CRITICIZE THIS NEXT CRUCIAL STEP IN THE PEACE PROCESS.

-- WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT WE ARE ON COURSE AND WE EXPECT THAT THE CONSULTATIONS WHICH SECRETARY VANCE AND/OR AMBASSADOR ATHERTON WILL HAVE IN RIYADH AND AMMAN WILL PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN SAUDI AND JORDANIAN SUPPORT FOR SADAT. CHRISTOPHER

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